



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Founder of Naval Civil Engineer Corps Honored in Exhibit *William P.S. Sanger immortalized in Pentagon Corridor*

The Navy's first civil engineer, William P.S. Sanger, was among those honored May 25 at an unveiling of a permanent exhibit at the Pentagon to recognize the significant contributions of career civilian employees and the history of the civil service.

Eight other career civilians, representing all branches of the service are also profiled in the exhibit.

The exhibit is part of the Department of Defense Career Civilians Corridor and consists of glass panels containing artifacts, photographs, and narratives that outline more than 200 years of civil service accomplishments.

RAADM Michael K. Loose, NAVFAC Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers, along with John E. Roark, Jr., NAVFAC Executive Director, attended the ceremony.

"It is very fitting and proper that the newest display in the Pentagon's second floor corridor recognizes the many significant and varied contributions that civil servants, past and present, have made since the founding of the nation to the present," said Roark. "The display recognizes the daily contributions to national security by more than 600,000 civil service employees world-wide in the DoD. I hope that everyone gets an opportunity to see the display."

As the "father" of the modern Civil Engineer Corps, William Sanger served the Navy as civil engineer nearly 55 years, longer than any other civil engineer. His remarkable engineering contributions to the U.S. Navy and mentoring of Naval civil engineers for five decades led to the creation of shore establishments that have supported our nation's naval fleets, at home and abroad, and in war and peace since 1826.

In addition to the Pentagon exhibit, NAVFAC Headquarters is named for Sanger at the Washington Navy Yard.

Sanger was hired at age 17 to be the "resident engineer" during the construction of the Navy's first dry dock in the Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia. The Norfolk dry dock was completed in six years and opened on June 17, 1833. President Andrew Jackson was in attendance when the USS *Delaware* entered Norfolk to become the first ship to be placed in a Navy dry dock in the United States.

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With the Norfolk project completed, Sanger was appointed civil engineer for the Board of Navy Commissioners July 8, 1936. When Congress established the bureau system on August 31, 1842, Sanger became the civil engineer for the first Bureau of Navy Yards and Docks. Five years later, at the urging of Sanger, the Navy commissioned its civil engineers under the authority of the Congressional Statute of March 2, 1867. This act marked the founding of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, and to Sanger's commissioning as the Navy's first civil engineer March 3, 1867.

Ray DuBois, Director of Administration and Management in the Pentagon spoke about the reasons for the new exhibit.

"In the Pentagon you can find exhibits about the contribution of Native Americans in World War II - women in military history - the buffalo soldiers, African Americans who fought in the civil war - soldier signers of the constitution - former secretaries of war and former secretaries of defense," DuBois explained. "The real story of dedication and sacrifice, innovation and reform, accomplished by civilians dedicating entire careers to supporting our troops and defending our country, needs to be told," he said.

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The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) manages the planning, design, construction and public works support for shore facilities for U.S. Navy activities around the world. We provide the Navy's forces with the operating, expeditionary, support and training bases they need. NAVFAC is a global organization with an annual volume of business in excess of \$8.5 billion. As a major Navy Systems Command and an integral member of the Navy and Marine Corps team, NAVFAC delivers timely and effective facilities engineering solutions worldwide.